

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 ACDA-07 DHA-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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O R 170243Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4074

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL CAPE OOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1938

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, US, SF

SUBJ: MEETING ON SOWETO ANNIVERSARY FOR SOLIDARITY AGAINST
APARTHEID

1. IN LETTER DATED 3 JUNE ON OAU STATIONERY, THE US WAS
INVITED TO ATTEND A "SOLEMN COMMEMORATIVE MEETING ON THE
AFRICAN GROUP OF STATES AT THE UNITED NATIONS...ON 16 JUNE 1977
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH
THE STRUGGLING PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA". (LETTER DATAFAXED
TO IO/UNP ESCUDERO ON JUNE 9). WE WERE INFORMED THAT
SPEAKERS LIST WOULD INCLUDE SYG WALDHEIM, GA PRESIDENT
AMERASINGHE, THE PAC, ANC, THE REGIONAL GROUPS AND SEVERAL
MEMBER STATES. SWEDEN, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WEO GROUP FOR JULY,
SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE
WEO'S. (IN CONTRAST TO OTHER REGIONAL GROUPINGS, WEO DOES NOT
OFTEN SPEAK TO POLITICAL ISSUES AS A GROUP.)

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2. SHORTLY AFTER THE MEETING BEGAN, ITALIAN COUNSELOR
POINTED OUT TO US DEL THAT THERE WAS NO SEAT OR SIGN FOR
ISRAEL IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM. ALL MEMBER STATES EXCEPT
ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN ALLOTTED SEATS. AMBASSADOR
LEONARD WITHDREW THE US DELEGATION (WHICH WAS LOCATED
AT THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER) AND CONSULTED ISRAELI PERM
REP HERZOG BY PHONE. HERZOG CHECKED AND FOUND THAT HIS

MISSION HAD RECEIVED NO INVITATION. HE ASKED LEONARD TO PURSUE HIS OWN PROPOSAL NOT TO RETURN TO THE MEETING, AND LEONARD AGREED. A CHECK WITH WALDHEIM'S STAFF INDICATED HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE ISRAEL NOT INVITED.

3. USUN MISOFF, WHO WAS CONSULTING WITH OTHERS ON THE SIDE OF THE CONFERENCE ROOM, WAS APPROACHED BY OAU DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE SAM, WHO EXPRESSED DISMAY THAT US WAS NOT OCCUPYING ITS SEAT. SAM SAID THAT OAU DOES NOT COMMUNICATE WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND ISRAEL "SINCE THEY BOTH OCCUPY AFRICAN LAND". HE CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT AFRICAN GROUP WOULD REACT NEGATIVELY TO US BOYCOTT OF SUCH AN IMPORTANT MEETING. MISOFF SAID THAT THE US REACTED VERY NEGATIVELY TO THE FACT THAT UN MEMBER STATES WERE EXCLUDED SELECTIVELY FROM EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE VICTIMS OF SUCH A TRAGIC SITUATION AS SOWETO.

4. WHEN AMBASSADOR LEONARD ARRIVED AT SUBSEQUENT SC MEETING (HELD ON SEPARATE ISSUE) SAME DAY (PM 6/16), SYG WALDHEIM TOOK HIM ASIDE AND INDICATED THAT HE ALREADY BEING CRITICIZED BECAUSE OF EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM SOLIDARITY MEETING. SYG CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL PRIOR TO OR DURING SOLIDARITY MEETING, BUT ONLY WHEN CONFRONTED BY PRESS FOLLOWING MEETING.

5. AUSTRALIAN MISOFF CALLED EVENING OF JUNE 16 TO INFORM USUN THAT AMBASSADOR HARRY IS SENDING A LETTER TO OAU REP OUTTARA WHICH WILL CITE AUSTRALIA'S STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH IN THE SOLIDARITY MEETING AND CONFIDENTIAL

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MALCOLM FRASER'S NOTE OUTLINING AUSTRALIA'S POLICY TOWARD APARTHEID AND SOWETO ON THE OCCASION OF THE DAY OF SOLIDARITY. THE LETTER WILL THEN STATE, "I WAS DISTURBED TO OBSERVE DURING THE MEETING THAT CERTAIN MEMBER STATES HAD NOT, IT APPEARED, BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND".

6. ON QUESTION OF WHO WAS INVITED, ORIGINAL OAU LETTER READS: "THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY TO THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE PERMANENT MISSIONS AND OFFICES OF THE PERMANENT OBSERVERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND, HAS THE HONOUR TO INVITE THEM TO A SOLEMN COMMEMORATIVE MEETING..".

7. IF ASKED, WE ARE CONFIRMING TO THE PRESS THAT WE LEFT THE MEETING UPON FINDING OUT THAT ISRAEL HAD BEEN EXCLUDED. WE EXPECT SOME REFLECTIONS ON THIS MEETING IN TOMORROW'S PRESS.
LEONARD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, APARTHEID, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MEETINGS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN01938
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770216-0334
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770643/aaaablst.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8973827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2106156
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING ON SOWETO ANNIVERSARY FOR SOLIDARITY AGAINST APARTHEID
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, US, IS, SF, XA, XX, UN, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8973827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009